

3/23/11

Dear Senator Toni Harp,

My name is Shannon Kirkpatrick and I am a senior in the Lebanon Regional agriscience program in Lebanon. I live in Andover and I attend this regional agriscience school choice program because I want to work with animals for my future career, hopefully in dog training. I like the agriscience program because it allows kids who wouldn't have ever been exposed to agricultural knowledge to explore the agricultural sciences. The agriscience program teaches kids public speaking skills which prepared me for senior project and any projects I had to do in class. It prepares kids for life, by teaching them skills like time management and responsibility by caring for plants and animals. My SAE project is working for Fidelco Guide Dog Foundation in the kennel. I clean their pens, give baths and feed them. I keep the kennel running smoothly and the dogs healthy. This will help me move up the ranks to become a dog trainer there at Fidelco. I love working with dogs and fostering all breeds. In the future the skills I have learned in this program will be beneficial to whatever profession I may choose.

I am writing this letter to encourage you to **please urge the Appropriations Committee to pledge 9 million dollars of the school choice funding increases proposed in the Governor's budget to the state's 19 regional (vo-ag) agriscience programs.**

Our agriscience programs have been drastically underfunded for over 20 years as compared to the magnet schools, charter schools, vocational technical schools and the other school choice funding programs. (Please see attached flyer with details)

This will allow hundreds of more students like me to enroll in these successful programs so they will have the same positive experience I am having now.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,

Shannon Kirkpatrick

